

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1802
DEPARTMENT TREASURY
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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USEEC AND USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSIES
DEPARTMENT PASS FEDERAL RESERVE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON EFIN GW
SUBJECT: FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN GERMANY
(SEPTEMBER 5-11)

REF: BONN 16184

1. SUBJECTS COVERED:
ESSEN INSTITUTE SKEPTICAL ABOUT CHANCES OF NEW EUROPEAN
MONETARY ARRANGEMENTS; BANK FEDERATIONS ALSO APPREHENSIVE
ON QUESTION OF EUROPEAN MONETARY SYSTEM; AMENDMENTS TO
DOUBLE TAXATION AGREEMENT WITH SWITZERLAND; FOREIGN
DM BONDS; FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET; MONEY MARKET;
BUNDESBANK FOREIGN POSITION; BANK LIQUIDITY; BOND
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MARKET; INTEREST RATES ON NOTES AND SAVINGS BONDS RISE;
\$500 MILLION CREDIT TO IIB; DM 500 MILLION CREDIT FOR
MEXICO.

2. ESSEN INSTITUTE SKEPTICAL ABOUT EMA'S CHANCES:
IN ITS LATEST MONTHLY REPORT, THE ESSEN INSTITUTE TAKES
THE POSITION THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO STABILIZE EUROPEAN

EXCHANGE RATES WILL PROVE A DANGEROUS DELUSION SO LONG AS GOALS, POLICIES AND THEIR ECONOMIC RESULTS ARE NOT CONVERGING AMONG THE MEMBER COUNTRIES. ESSEN POSITS TWO CATEGORIES OF COUNTRIES IN THE EC:

(A) THOSE WHO FROM BITTER EXPERIENCE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF PRICE STABILITY FOR CONTINUOUS GROWTH AND FULL EMPLOYMENT AND THEREFORE ATTACH EQUAL IMPORTANCE TO STEADY GROWTH OF THE MONEY SUPPLY;

(B) THOSE WHO BELIEVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS CAN BE MORE EASILY RESOLVED WITH INFLATION AND THEREFORE PURSUE EXPANSIONARY MONETARY POLICIES.

ESSEN OBSERVES THAT SOME COUNTRIES, NAMELY UK AND ITALY, AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW EUROPEAN EXCHANGE SYSTEM ONLY AFTER RECEIVING ASSURANCES THAT THEY WILL NOT HAVE TO IMPOSE STABILIZATION POLICIES FOR WHICH DOMESTIC SUPPORT IS LACKING. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE CREATION OF A WELL-ENDOWED FUND TO MAINTAIN EXCHANGE RATE STABILITY WILL ENCOURAGE SPECULATION AND RENEW INFLATIONARY TENDENCIES. ESSEN CONCLUDES THAT PRESENTLY ATTEMPTING TO STABILIZE EXCHANGE RATES IS LIKE PUTTING THE ROOF AND THE WEATHER VANE ON THE HOUSE BEFORE THE FOUNDATION IS FINISHED.

3. BANK FEDERATION APPREHENSIVE ABOUT EUROPEAN MONETARY SYSTEM:

ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE FEDERATION OF GERMAN UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMERCIAL BANKS HAS CAUTIONED AGAINST LETTING AN ENLARGED EUROPEAN EXCHANGE SYSTEM BECOME AN ENGINE OF INFLATION. THE FEDERATION POINTS OUT THAT, SINCE INFLATION RATES CANNOT BE HARMONIZED OVER-NIGHT, EXCHANGE RATES WILL HAVE TO REMAIN EASILY ADJUSTABLE, HENCE NOT TO BE DEFENDED THROUGH THE USE OF UNLIMITED CREDIT FACILITIES. THE FEDERATION WARNS THAT CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS OF UP TO ONE YEAR WOULD HAVE SCARCELY ANY DISCIPLINARY EFFECT ON DEBTOR COUNTRIES. IN OPPOSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CURRENCY BASKET AS THE REFERENCE POINT FOR EXCHANGE RATE BANDS, THE FEDERATION NOTES THAT IN SUCH A SYSTEM THE DM COULD RISE TO THE TOP WITHOU

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ANY OTHER CURRENCY NECESSARILY SINKING TO THE BOTTOM
OF THE BAND AND THAT THIS WOULD IMPOSE ONE-SIDED
INTERVENTION OBLIGATIONS ON THE GERMAN MONETARY
AUTHORITIES.

AGAIN ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE FEDERATION
OF COOPERATIVE BANKS HAS WARNED THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF
PLANS FOR MONETARY STABILITY NOW BEING DISCUSSED BY
EC EXPERTS COULD ENDANGER THE STABILITY ACHIEVED BY
THE FRG.

4. DOUBLE TAXATION AGREEMENT WITH SWITZERLAND:
HANDELSBLATT REPORTS THAT THE FRG AND SWITZERLAND HAVE
AGREED TO AMEND THEIR 1971 DOUBLE TAXATION AGREEMENT.
THE AMENDED TREATY WOULD REPORTEDLY REDUCE THE FRG
WITHHOLDING TAX ON DIVIDENDS TO THE SWISS PARENT FIRMS
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OF FRG SUBSIDIARIES FROM 25 PERCENT TO 15 PERCENT.
THE REINVESTED PROFITS OF THOSE SUBSIDIARIES WOULD ALSO
BE SUBJECT TO A 15 PERCENT TAX RATE. HANDELSBLATT NOTES
THAT IN THE LAST RESPECT THE AMENDED TREATY GIVES MORE
FAVORABLE TAX TREATMENT TO INVESTMENTS IN THE FRG THAN
DOES THE US/FRG DOUBLE TAXATION TREATY AND SUGGESTS
THAT THIS "REINVESTMENT BARRIER" IN THE US/FRG TREATY

WILL BE DONE AWAY WITH. THE AMENDMENTS REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF BUNDESTAG AND BUNDESRAT AND THE COMPETENT SWISS AUTHORITIES.

5. FOREIGN DM BONDS:

DUE TO HEAVY DEMAND THE SIZE OF THE AUSTRALIAN LOAN (SEE BONN 16184) WAS AGAIN RAISED, FROM DM 200 MILLION TO DM 250 MILLION (COUPON 6 PERCENT, ISSUE PRICE 100, MATURITY 10 YEARS). THE DM 250 MILLION LOAN OF THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB) WAS OFFERED AT A COUPON OF 6 PERCENT AND A MAXIMUM MATURITY OF 12 YEARS, AND THE DM 100 MILLION LOAN OF THE PETROLEO BRASILEIRO S.A. (PETROBRAS) AT A 7 PERCENT COUPON AND A 10 YEAR MATURITY. THE SOUTH AFRICAN OIL FUND PLACED PRIVATELY BONDS OF DM 20 MILLION (COUPON 7 1/4 PERCENT, MATURITY 4 YEARS), AND THE JAPANESE TOKYO RUBBER BONDS OF DM 30 MILLION (5 1/2 PERCENT, 5 YEARS). THE CONVERTIBLE BONDS OF THE JAPANESE FIRMS ASAHI OPTICAL CO. LTD. (DM 50 MILLION) AND THE STANLEY ELECTRIC CO. LTD. (DM 40 MILLION) WERE BOTH OFFERED AT A COUPON OF 3 1/2 PERCENT, AN ISSUE PRICE OF 100 AND MATURITIES OF 8 1/2 YEARS AND 7 YEARS, RESPECTIVELY. THE JAPANESE KONISHIROKU PHOTO INDUSTRY CO. LTD. ALSO PLANS TO OFFER CONVERTIBLE DM BONDS (DM 60 MILLION- 3 1/2 PERCENT, ABOUT 6 1/2 YEARS).

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6. FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET:

THE DOLLAR STRENGTHENED AGAINST THE DEUTSCHEMARK AND AGAIN EXCEEDED THE \$1 EQUALS DM 2.00 MARK. THE GERMAN FINANCIAL PRESS ATTRIBUTED THE STRENGTHENING TO RECENT STATEMENTS BY TREASURY SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL AND FEDERAL RESERVE REPRESENTATIVES AND GREATER OPTIMISM ABOUT PASSAGE OF THE ENERGY BILL. DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW, FRANKFURT SPOT AND FORWARD DOLLAR RATES DEVELOPED AS FOLLOWS:

	SPOT DOLLARS			FORWARD DOLLARS	
	(IN DM PER \$1.00)			(IN PCT. PER ANNUM)	
	OPENING	FIXING	CLOSING	ONE-MONTH	THREE-MONTH
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
SEPT 5	1.9700	1.9790	1.9840	-5.6	-5.4
6	1.9820	1.9853	1.9870	-4.8	-5.3
7	1.9890	1.9902	1.9905	-5.0	-5.3
8	1.9915	1.9950	1.9975	-5.2	-5.3
11	2.0025	2.0105	2.0022	-5.7	-5.3
12	1.9945	1.9965	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

7. MONEY MARKET:

THE GERMAN MONEY MARKET REMAINED TIGHT WITH ALL MONEY

RATES BEING ABOUT OR ABOVE THE 3.5 PERCENT LOMBARD RATE
OF THE BUNDESBANK. A FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE
TIGHTNESS MAY HAVE BEEN THAT BANKS IN PREPARATION FOR
THE MAJOR MID-SEPTEMBER TAX DATE RETAINED RELATIVELY
LARGE RESERVES AT THE BUNDESBANK. MOREOVER, LIQUIDITY
MAY NO LONGER HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE
MARKET INTERVENTIONS OF THE BUNDESBANK DUE TO THE
STRENGTHENING OF THE DOLLAR AND BY BUNDESBANK BOND
PURCHASES DUE TO THE IMPROVED CONDITIONS ON THE
MARKET FOR DOMESTIC BONDS (SEE PARA ON BOND MARKET).
FOR THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW, FRANKFURT INTERBANK
MONEY RATES DEVELOPED AS FOLLOWS:

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	CALL MONEY	ONE-MONTH	THREE-MONTH
	-----	-----	-----
SEPT 5	3.45-3.50	3.60	3.70
6	3.45-3.50	3.60	3.70
7	3.45-3.50	3.60	3.70
8	3.45-3.50	3.60	3.70
11	3.45-3.50	3.60	3.70

8. BUNDESBANK FOREIGN POSITION:

DURING THE PERIOD AUGUST 24-31 THE BUNDES-
BANK'S NET FOREIGN POSITION DECLINED BY DM 0.1 BILLION
TO DM 92.2 BILLION. FOREIGN EXCHANGE HOLDINGS IN-
CREASED BY DM 234 MILLION AND FOREIGN LIABILITIES BY
ABOUT DM 310 MILLION. SDR HOLDINGS DECLINED
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BY DM 18 MILLION.

9. BANK LIQUIDITY:

DURING THE SAME PERIOD BANK LIQUIDITY DECLINED BY
DM 1.0 BILLION. BASIC FACTORS REDUCING LIQUIDITY
WERE INCREASES IN CURRENCY IN CIRCULATION (DM 3.3
BILLION) AND IN THE BANKS' HOLDINGS OF RESERVES AT
THE BUNDESBANK (DM 3.5 BILLION) TO MEET AUGUST
RESERVE REQUIREMENTS. OTHER FACTORS, NET, REDUCED
LIQUIDITY BY DM 0.4 BILLION. THE ONLY MAJOR FACTOR
INCREASING BANK LIQUIDITY WAS USUAL END-OF-MONTH
PAYMENTS OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES WHICH REDUCED NET
ASSETS HELD BY PUBLIC AUTHORITIES AT THE BUNDESBANK
BY DM 6.2 BILLION. THE BANKS FINANCED THE DECLINE
IN LIQUIDITY BY INCREASING REDISCOUNT BORROWINGS
BY DM 0.6 BILLION AND LOMBARD BORROWINGS BY DM 0.4
BILLION.

10. BOND MARKET:

ON THE MARKET FOR DOMESTIC BONDS THE DM 1.4 BILLION
FEDERAL LOAN (SEE BONN 16184) HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY
PLACED. CURRENTLY THE TWO TRANCHES OF THE LOAN ARE
TRADING AT 0.95 PERCENTAGE POINTS ABOVE THEIR ISSUE
PRICE OF 99. THE SUCCESSFUL ISSUE GAVE A STIMULUS
TO THE MARKET WHICH PRODUCED CONSIDERABLE PRICE
INCREASES. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, AVERAGE YIELDS
OF OUTSTANDING DOMESTIC BONDS BROKEN DOWN BY RE-
MAINING MATURITY DEVELOPED AS FOLLOWS:

REMAINING MATURITY

(YEARS)	1	3	5	7	9	10
SEP 8	4.25	5.80	6.15	6.50	6.75	6.80
SEP 1	4.40	6.00	6.35	6.65	6.85	6.90

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ACCORDING TO THE FINANCIAL PRESS, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY OFFERING PROMISORY NOTES WITH MATURITIES OF 6-10 YEARS. THE YIELDS OF THE NOTES REPORTEDLY 6.30 PERCENT (6 YEARS), 6.45 PERCENT (7 YEARS)

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6.55 PERCENT (8 YEARS), 6.65 PERCENT (9 YEARS), AND
6.75 PERCENT (10 YEARS).

11. DOLLAR 500 MILLION CREDIT FOR SOVIET BANK:
THE CONTRACT ON THE \$ 500 MILLION CREDIT FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK, MOSCOW, (SEE BONN
15378) HAS NOW BEEN SIGNED, AS ANNOUNCED BY THE

DRESDNER BANK WHICH LED THE CONSORTIUM OF 32 BANKS GRANTING THE CREDIT. THE MATURITY OF THE CREDIT IS 10 YEARS WITH REPAYMENT TO BEGIN AFTER 5 1/2 YEARS. FOR THE FIRST 30 MONTHS THE COUPON IS 5/8 PERCENT ABOVE LIBOR AND FOR THE REMAINING MATURITY 3/4 PERCENT ABOVE LIBOR. THE CREDIT WILL BE USED TO FINANCE A GAS-PIPELINE-SYSTEM FROM THE URALS TO 6 EASTBLOC COUNTRIES, IMPORTS FROM WESTERN UNCLASSIFIED

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COUNTRIES AND "OTHER PROJECTS".

12. INCREASE IN INTEREST RATES FOR FEDERAL NOTES AND FEDERAL SAVINGS BONDS:
EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 8, THE FINANCE MINISTRY INCREASED INTEREST RATES FOR ONE-AND TWO-YEAR FEDERAL NOTES (SO-CALLED "FINANZIERUNGSSCHAETZE"). ONE-YEAR NOTES NOW YIELD 4.00 PERCENT (PREVIOUSLY 3.57 PERCENT) AND TWO-YEAR NOTES 5.00 PERCENT (PREVIOUSLY 4.14 PERCENT). FINANZIERUNGSSCHAETZE ARE FEDERAL NOTES WHICH CANNOT BE RETURNED BEFORE MATURITY AND ARE SOLD IN SMALL DENOMINATIONS (UP TO DM 100,000) TO DOMESTIC NON-BANKS. EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 12, INTEREST RATES FOR FEDERAL SAVINGS BONDS WERE ALSO INCREASED. SAVINGS BONDS FO TYPE A (6-YEAR MATURITY, ANNUAL INTEREST PAYMENTS) NOW YIELD 5.44 PERCENT (PREVIOUSLY 4.96 PERCENT) AND BONDS OF TYPE B (7-YEAR MATURITY, ACCUMULATED INTEREST) 5.71 PERCENT (PREVIOUSLY 5.21 PERCENT).

13. DM 500 MILLION CREDIT FOR MEXICO:
ACCORDING TO THE DEUTSCHE BANK, ITS LUXEMBOURG BRANCH, COMPANY FINANCIERE DE LA DEUTSCHE BANK HAS ARRANGED FOR A DM 500 MILLION CREDIT FOR MEXICO. ACCORDING TO TE DEUTSCHE BANK THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE CREDIT WAS PLACED WITH BANKS RESIDING IN LUXEMBOURG, AND WAS THE LARGEST CREDIT TRANSACTION ARRANGED THUS FAR BY BANKS LOCATED IN LUXEMBOURG. MEEHAN

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